UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:   10/808,024

Applicant: BENHAIM, et al.

Filed: 03/23/2004

Art Unit: 2616

Examiner: BOAKYE, Alexander

Docket No.:   7019P001

Confirmation No.:   5694

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs

In response to a phone call from the honorable examiner BOAKYE, Alexander dated January 10, 2009, the abstract is amended to include less than 150 words and to comply with *37 CFR 1.72*.

The abstract is amended by deleting the second paragraph of the abstract and to include the term "an apparatus and" in line 1 of the abstract.

A marked version of the abstract:

The invention provides an apparatus and a method for allocating upstream bandwidth of a shared upstream channel of an optical network, the optical network interconnecting an apparatus with at least a first network unit and a second network unit, the method includes the stages of: (i) receiving requests for transmitting information towards the apparatus; and (ii) issuing data grants in response to at least the requests; wherein at least one data grant authorizes a first network unit to transmit data at a first bit-rate during at least one time-slot and at least one other data grant authorizes a second

network unit to transmit data at a second bit-rate during at least one other time-slot, whereas the second bit-rate differs from the first bit-rate.

~~The invention provides an apparatus that includes: (i) a transmitter for transmitting information towards at least a first network unit and a second network unit; (ii) a receiver for receiving information transmitted from at least one network unit; and (iii) a media access controller for issuing data grants; wherein at least one data grant authorizes a first network unit to transmit data at a first bit-rate during at least one time-slot and at least one other data grant authorizes a second network unit to transmit data at a second bit-rate during at least one other time-slot, whereas the second bit-rate differs from the first bit-rate.~~

A clean version of the abstract:

The invention provides an apparatus and a method for allocating upstream bandwidth of a shared upstream channel of an optical network, the optical network interconnecting an apparatus with at least a first network unit and a second network unit, the method includes the stages of: (i) receiving requests for transmitting information towards the apparatus; and (ii) issuing data grants in response to at least the requests; wherein at least one data grant authorizes a first network unit to transmit data at a first bit-rate during at least one time-slot and at least one other data grant authorizes a second network unit to transmit data at a second bit-rate during at least one other time-slot, whereas the second bit-rate differs from the first bit-rate.